



PASADENA
SHOWCASE
HOUSE
for the Arts

2017 PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN

Historical Information

STYLE: English Tudor Revival

YEAR OF COMPLETION: 1916

COST TO BUILD: \$25,000

FIRST OWNER: The legacy of this estate is infused with Hollywood glamour. The house was built for lawyer-turned-actor Samuel S. Hinds and his wife. Hinds was an attorney in Pasadena until he lost most of his money in the stock market crash of 1929. While an attorney, he was one of the founders of the Pasadena Playhouse and acted in its plays as a hobby. His work there caught the attention of several movie producers, who offered him parts in their films. After a few years, he quit law to become a full-time actor. Hinds appeared in more than 200 films and is best-known for playing Peter Bailey, the father of the James Stewart character and the founder of the Bailey Building and Loan, in *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946).

ARCHITECT: Marston & Van Pelt.

HOUSE FEATURES: The 7,479 square foot main residence and feature six bedrooms, four bathrooms and two half-baths. The majestic two-acre compound includes a pool and badminton court on park-like grounds.

The English Tudor exterior is distinguished by half-timbering, red brick and a slate roof. Original leaded glass adorns the windows, with occasional stained glass.

Showcase guests will enter through a passage near the arroyo to see a dramatic sight, just as the architects intended. The broad lawn slopes gently up to the impressive house; guests travelled a winding sidewalk up to the terrace and door.

The entry features the main stair hall, a grand space with an intricately carved balustrade and halfway up the stairs, an impressive window. The first floor includes the living room, library, dining room, conservatory, half bath, kitchen and laundry room. The second floor contains the servants' quarters—two bedrooms and a bath—plus three children's bedrooms, two baths and a sleeping porch, now enclosed. The master bedroom has a sitting room, which was also a sleeping porch, along with several closets and a bath.

The grounds have numerous rose bushes, an arbor and more than 100 trees of various species. A pool is tucked among trees in a peaceful setting. A waterfall feeds into a small stream that passes beneath a faux bois bridge. The lush landscape feels a world away from the city.

FILMOGRAPHY: Most recently, the house has served as a set for several movies including the acclaimed *La La Land* (in a scene set on the loggia, in which Ryan Gosling's character plays the

piano at a garden party), *Beaches* (it was the home of Barbara Hershey's character) and the 1985 version of *Alice in Wonderland*, along with television episodes of *Columbo*, *Parks and Recreation* and *Mad Men*.

This historical information was provided by Tim Gregory, The Building Biographer.